passes issued to Freedom Fighters)

(ii) No. of Cheque Passes issued during 1996-97: 6168

(b)

S. No.	Categories of people to whom issued
	A. Card Passes
1.	Freedom Fighters (cost borne by Ministry of Home Affairs)
2.	Former Minister of Railways/Former Minister of State of Railways/Dy. Minister for Railways.
3.	Former Members of Parliament.
4.	Arjuna Awardees, Olympic Medalists, Asian and Commonwealth Gold Medalists
5.	Recipients of Chakra series of Gallantry Awards (Defence)
6.	Recipients of Presidents' Police Medal for Gallantry and police Medal for Gallantry (Police)
7.	Presidents/Secretaries of National Sports Federation of India, Indian Olympic Association and State Olympic asscociations affiliated to IOA.
8.	Eminent persons & organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities at MR's discretion.
	B. Cheque Passes for specific journeys at MR/MOS(R)/Board Members discretion as per guidelines.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Present status of Konkan Railway Project

443. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the Konkan Railway Project;

(b) when the project is likely to be completed and become operational;

(c) the reasons for delay in the completion; and

(d) the total cost thereof and the expenditure incurred on the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The overall physical progress is 99.37% as on 31.10.97.

(b) By 31.12.1997 and will immediately thereafter become operational.

(c) The main reasons for delay in the completion have been shortage of funds, stoppage of work in Mayem and Bali seciton for 8 months, additional works in Goa sector as per accepted recommendations of Oza Committee Report and adverse geological conditions encountered within 4 tunnels in Goa sector.

(d) Total estimated cost — Rs. 2400.00 crores

Expenditure incurred upto 30-9-97 (excluding financing charges) — Rs. 2382.00 crores

New broad gauge line connecting Kolhapur Ratnagiri on Konkan Railway

444. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a Survey Report in respect of new BG (Broad Gauge) line connecting Kolhapur to Ratnagiri on Konkan Railway Alignment *via* Talawade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government on the Report;

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the action will commence?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) After the survey report has been received and considered.